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In 2
1896

Second Annual Report
OF THE
Board of Park Commissioners
OF THE
City of Indianapolis, Indiana
1896

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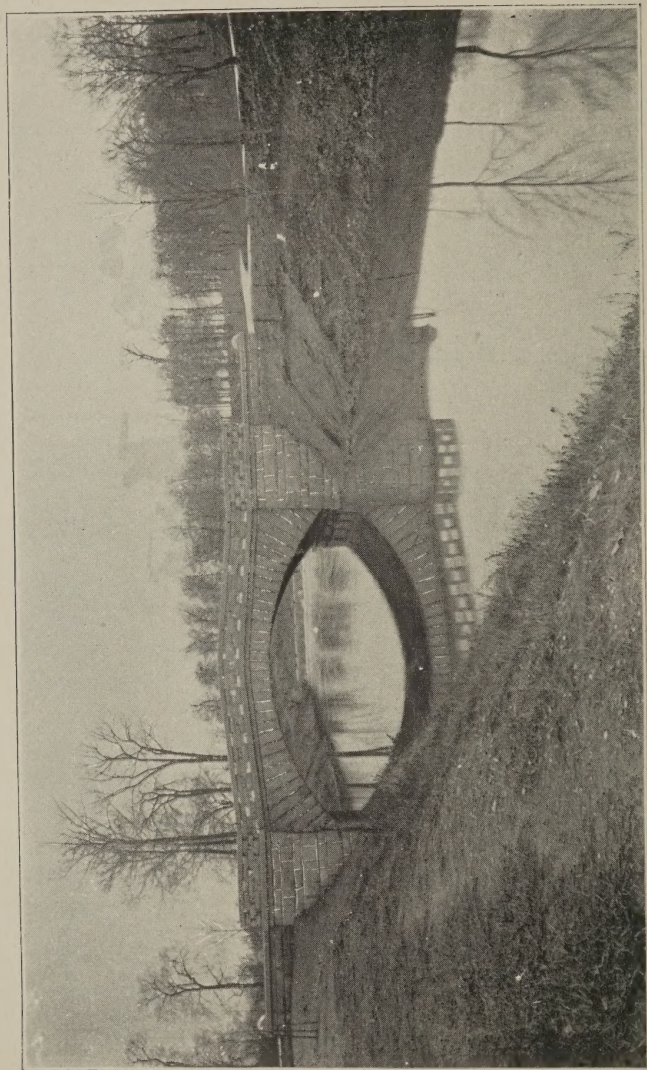
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Volume

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SEGMENTAL ARCH OVER BEAN CREEK—GARFIELD PARK.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

1897

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1896

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

EDWARD F. CLAYPOOLTerm expires January 1, 1898.
ALBERT LIEBER.....Term expires January 1, 1902.
STERLING R. HOLT.....Term expires January 1, 1901.
ORAN PERRY.....Term expires January 1, 1900.
WM. E. ENGLISH.....Term expires January 1, 1899.

CHAIRMAN.

EDWARD F. CLAYPOOL.....Elected April 22, 1895.

CLERK.

WILLIAM R. HOLLOWAYElected April 22, 1895.

ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

J. CLYDE POWER.....Appointed Sept. 20, 1895.

ESTABLISHED PARKS.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Location.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
GARFIELD PARK.....	Southern part of the city.....	89.0
MILITARY PARK.....	Western part of the city.....	17.3
UNIVERSITY SQUARE.....	Central part of the city.....	4.0
ST. CLAIR SQUARE.....	On North Pennsylvania street.....	4.0
ELMWOOD PARK.....	On Brookside Ave., northeast of the city...	2.0
BROOKSIDE.....	Northeast part of the city.....	0.59
Total.....		116.62

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., January 20, 1897.

To the Mayor of the City of Indianapolis:

DEAR SIR—In compliance with the requirements of section 5 of the act of March 1, 1895, creating and defining the duties of the Board of Park Commissioners, we herewith submit our second annual report, covering the transactions of the board for the year 1896, which contains a complete statement of the expenditures by the board for all purposes, with the reports of the Secretary, Engineer and Superintendent, together with a number of half-tone illustrations made from photographs taken especially for this report.

This commission was organized April 22, 1895, consequently this is the first report covering a full year's business.

When we took charge of the park lands owned by the city and the squares the state permitted to be used for park purposes, we found them partly improved and uncared for. Being limited by your appropriation we decided to use what funds we had in needful and permanent improvements, such as will prove to be satisfactory in the future. Over three-fourths of the money we received has been used in that manner; among which we call your attention to the stone roadway bridge in Garfield park, designed by J. Clyde Power, the board's engineer, a stone dam across Pleasant Run, making a beautiful lake, covering four acres of ground; an additional propagating greenhouse, widening existing drives and walks, constructing new ones; increased the water supply in all the parks and squares by a system of underground pipes with hose connections at regular intervals; building cement walks; placing drinking fountains supplied with pure water from driven wells in University and St. Clair Squares and Garfield Park; substituted electric lights for gas in Military Park and University Square, built cement walks in all the north side parks and squares, cutting the dead wood from the old trees and planting

new ones, enlarging and increasing the number of flower beds including a pond of lilies in Military Park, a large central fountain and basin in University Square, furnishing swings in all the parks and squares for the children, as well as other minor improvements for the purpose of making the grounds more attractive and capable of giving pleasure to those who visit them.

We have had surveyed and prepared the plans for a system of squares, parks and boulevards commensurate with the size and growing importance of our city, which will, if carried out, afford the residents of Indianapolis much needed pleasure grounds, drives and breathing space, as well as visitors an opportunity of grasping the beauty, importance and growth of our city.

The advantage of a comprehensive park system to a city or community can not be measured or estimated. The necessity is admitted by intelligent people in all parts of the civilized world, and the authorities of every growing city in this country and Europe recognize public parks to be a necessity of pressing importance, and they are annually acquiring additional acres for that purpose, with a view to their use for public recreation, and as the population increases the urgent need for parks is more plainly felt. They have a distinct and powerful influence along the line of good citizenship, carrying blessings alike to the rich and poor, in sickness and health. The wealthy classes are not dependent upon parks for an outing during the summer months. They can cross the ocean or visit the northern lakes, mountain and seaside resorts as they prefer, but the thousands of poor people who do not know what a vacation means need these beautiful spots for recreation and pleasure as well as for their health, giving strength and renewing powers, and affords their only opportunity for a summer outing and a refreshing rest from the monotony of their daily lives.

An outing in a park whether by a Sunday-school, family or social picnic party, or an athletic club, where everybody is free to visit when they please in search of innocent amusement in rowing, sailing, walking, cycling or riding, will prove a source of pleasure to all classes, especially for children.

The board realizes the necessity for a broad and comprehensive system of parks and boulevards that shall afford the residents of every section of the city breathing space, easy of access, and have given the question their best thought and study, some of their members having visited and personally inspected the leading parks of this country as well as Europe. They have inquired into the physical conditions of this city, and familiarized themselves with its needs and possibilities in that direction.

While some of the lands selected are on the outskirts, the rapid growth of the city warrants the belief that it will all be near the center of the resident population within a few years and it can be readily added to when the necessities shall require, and, if deemed desirable in the future, can be made into a park reaching from West Washington street to Irvington on the east and to Garfield Park on the south, affording the strongest contrast that can be had for city scenery. The oldest and best landscape engineers in the country have examined the territory in and about this city, and have pronounced it to be the best that could be selected, having for its leading feature a park and boulevard, the only plan that will afford a drive along the line of White river and Fall creek from West Washington street to the State Fair grounds, six miles in length, by the side of a flowing stream and artificial lakes, water falls, cascades and beautiful lawns, with facilities for rowing, sailing, bathing and skating, while surrounded by forest trees, with their wealth of foliage and the freshness of woodland air, plants, flowers and attractive landscapes, converting an unsightly stream with its rugged banks, by terracing, planting willow trees, shrubs and flower beds into a beautiful park that will be appreciated more and more by our citizens each succeeding year.

The history of every leading city in America proves that parks as investments are immensely profitable by reason of the rapid increase in the value of real estate in the portion of the city where they are located, while the increased tax receipts on such property in many instances pays for their maintenance.

The annual reports of commissioners of public parks in the leading cities of this country are full of examples, show-

ing the increase in value of the property and revenue derived by municipal corporations as the result of park development, many of their number paying for the improvement long before its most zealous advocates thought it would, affording striking proof that well considered improvements of this kind are profitable investments.

Our proposed park system is in such condition that we feel that the present opportunity should be taken advantage of that we may secure the only available land we have been able to find that is suitable for the purpose, as we are convinced the citizens of Indianapolis will find parks an increasing source of pleasure and profit.

The construction of a system of public parks is a problem that demands the best thought and study, as much of its work is planning for the future, and each year develops new possibilities that gives rise to new problems, hence, we feel warranted in urging early and favorable action on the recent recommendation made by us to yourself and the City Council, which we believe is approved of and supported by a large majority of the tax-payers of this city, in order that plans may be matured for a comprehensive system. We believe the expenditure of a comparatively small sum will come back in the increased valuation of adjoining property, as well as in increased health and happiness to our people.

Immediate steps will be taken to improve Greenlawn Cemetery, recently turned over to our care by the Department of Public Works, which will be cared for in a manner in keeping with the sacred purpose to which it was originally dedicated.

During the present year our work will be governed by circumstances. If new grounds are purchased they will have careful attention. All of which is respectfully submitted,

EDWARD F. CLAYPOOL,
STERLING R. HOLT,
ORAN PERRY,
WM. E. ENGLISH,
ALBERT LIEBER,

Commissioners.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

To the Commissioners of the Department of Public Parks of the City of Indianapolis, Ind.:

GENTLEMEN—I herewith submit a detailed statement of the receipts and disbursements of the appropriations for public parks during the year 1896, showing the amount expended for various purposes in each park and department under your control :

Total appropriation.....	\$35,000
Amount disbursed.....	\$34,999 55
Balance covered into the treasury.....	45
Total.....	\$35,000

The sum of \$200.69 received from the sale of old iron, privileges at Garfield Park and for electric light poles was covered into the treasury.

DISBURSEMENTS BY MONTHS.

January.....	\$2,416 80
February.....	1,166 30
March.....	1,818 84
April.....	2,001 52
May.....	10,023 86
June.....	2,458 92
July.....	2,445 69
August.....	5,025 93
September.....	3,690 31
October.....	853 55
November.....	999 54
December.....	2,018 29
Amount covered into the treasury.....	45
Total.....	\$35,000 00

GARFIELD PARK.

Pay-roll.....	\$5,305 78
New greenhouse.....	732 22
Horse feed.....	162 65
Wells, water, fountain, etc.....	171 30

Paint, oil, seed, pots, etc.....	\$325 12
Tools, repairs, etc.....	49 75
Trees, shrubs, etc.....	521 95
Additions to greenhouse and stable.....	357 09
Bridge repairs.....	75 00
New masonry bridge.....	6,043 65
Horse, wagon and rollers	298 00
Freight.....	64 02
Blacksmithing, etc.....	41 30
Telephone	31 75
Seats	245 50
Coal for greenhouses.....	150 70
Apron to stone dam	554 40
Swings	28 35
Total	<hr/> \$15,158 53

MILITARY PARK.

Pay-roll.....	\$1,829 73
Electric lighting	84 66
Paints, oils, etc.....	26 50
Buildings.....	162 31
Sod.....	62 48
Tools, repairs, etc.....	15 03
Wells, water, etc.....	578 45
Cement walks.....	1,742 17
Trees	65 00
Seats.....	44 75
Swings, flag, etc.....	27 00
Electric light pillars.....	167 06
Lawn mowers.....	51 00
Advertising.....	2 00
Total	<hr/> \$4,858 14

UNIVERSITY SQUARE.

Pay-roll.....	\$864 93
Electric lighting	234 72
Trees, freight, etc.....	84 77
Paints, oils, glass, seed, etc.....	32 59
Electric light pillars.....	125 22
Water, wells, fountains, etc.....	237 32
Tools and repairs.....	6 20
Cement walks.....	2,683 82
Freight.....	33 33
Seats.....	24 75
Lawn mowers.....	5 00
Total	<hr/> \$4,418 39

ST. CLAIR SQUARE.

Pay-roll.....	\$682 90
Water, wells, fountains, etc.....	147 06
Paints, oils, etc.....	29 55
Advertising.....	3 20
Electric light pillar.....	41 63
Tools and repairs.....	3 72
Cement walks.....	1,113 09
Swings.....	11 00
Trees, etc.....	11 00
Sod.....	25 67
Seats.....	16 50
Total.....	\$2,085 32

BROOKSIDE.

Pay-roll.....	\$189 69
Wells, water and hose.....	26 60
Swings.....	5 50
Sod.....	88 69
Fountain.....	162 53
Seats.....	33 00
Tools and repairs.....	50
Total.....	\$777 66

FT. WAYNE PLACE.

Pay-roll.....	\$18 60
Sod.....	7 00
Water, wells, etc.....	7 00
Total.....	\$32 60

ENGINEERING, ETC., ON PARK EXTENSION.

Pay-roll.....	\$2,057 79
Supplies, stakes, etc.....	79 41
Olmsted, J. C.....	121 27
Tools and repairs.....	5 45
Appraisers on park property.....	510 00
Teams.....	6 00
Total.....	\$2,779 92

OFFICE—SECRETARY AND ENGINEER.

Pay-roll.....	\$2,971 83
Transportation.....	560 85
Supplies.....	93 95
Instruments and repairs.....	259 75
Furniture.....	100 75
Freight and expressage.....	8 16

Telegrams	\$2 70
Printing annual reports, blanks, headings.....	372 25
Postage	40 00
Rent.....	420 00
Telephone	39 35
Towels, washing, etc.....	10 40
Total.....	<hr/> \$4,879 99

RECAPITULATION.

*Garfield Park.....	\$15,158 53
Military Park.....	4,858 14
University Square.....	4,418 39
St. Clair Square.....	2,085 32
Brookside	777 66
Ft. Wayne Place.....	32 60
Engineering, etc., on park extension	2,779 92
Office—secretary and engineer.....	4,879 99
Amount covered into the treasury.....	45
Total.....	<hr/> \$35,000 00

* \$2,500 of this expense should be apportioned between the various parks to cover the expense of the greenhouse, which is located in Garfield Park, the flowers for all parks being propagated there.

Respectfully submitted,
 WILLIAM R. HOLLOWAY,
Secretary.



WADING POOL—GARFIELD PARK.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF J. CLYDE POWER ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, January 2, 1897.

To the Honorable, the Board of Park Commissioners :

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to present to you a report upon the work and condition of the parks under my charge during the past year, and upon the surveys and work connected with the proposed park system.

GARFIELD PARK.

The greenhouses and propagating gardens of this department being located in Garfield Park, much in the way of expense pertains to the growing of plants and flowers for the various parks. Seventy-two thousand plants were grown and planted during the season and this entails considerable work in the greenhouses alone. It has grown to such proportions that during this year it will be separated from the park proper, and comprise a division itself.

It was found necessary to have more space for floriculture, and about the first of the year plans for an additional greenhouse were made and bids asked for same. The contract was awarded, but as the lowest bidders were unable to furnish bond I was ordered to purchase necessary materials, employ labor and build the greenhouse. This was done in January and February at a cost of \$733. Drainage pipe was laid for the new greenhouse, the grounds around it graded and sodded, brick walks built from the roadway into the greenhouse, and from the greenhouse to the residence, also a lattice screen from the greenhouse to the residence, to hide the nursery, hot beds, etc., from public view.

Twenty-two crates of pots, varying from two to six inches in size, were purchased at a cost of one hundred and thirty dollars (\$130). The shed and stable were repaired at a cost of \$125.

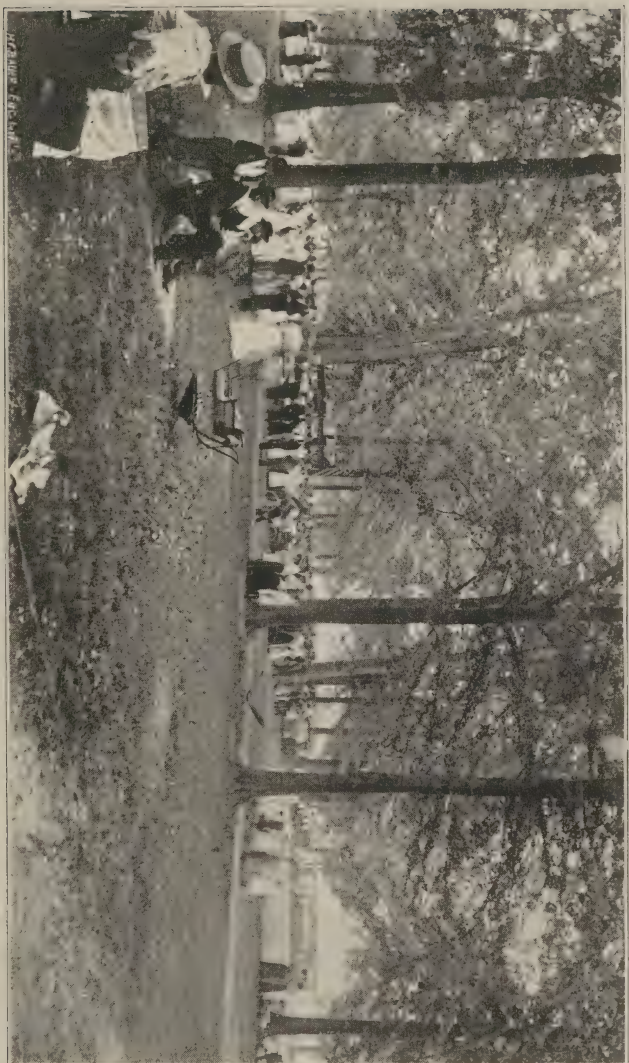
The drives of this park were not properly constructed origi-

nally and were too narrow. About one-half of the total length of these have been widened from twenty-two to thirty feet, the crowns reduced in height and gravel placed over the part which was widened. The young trees which had been planted before the Park Board was organized were in the way of this widening and these were set back to agree with the new width. All the drives have been edged twice during the season, and the constant cutting of weeds from them has been necessary. After every rain these roads have been rolled with a twenty-five hundred pound roller, but on account of the original construction it is almost impossible to make them ideal roadways.

The banks of Bean creek were dressed and much undesirable brush removed. Two ripples or small dams were built of boulders, making very nice wading pools which add much to the beauty of the place, and have been greatly enjoyed by children. In one of these pools has been planted a large number of common water lilies, which were given to the park by Mr. Hatfield of the U. S. Arsenal. The old wooden bridge over Bean creek was repaired at a cost of \$75; a small wooden bridge built over Pleasant Run at a cost of \$26, and a forty-foot masonry arch of oolitic stone over Bean creek at a cost of \$6,043.65. The construction of this bridge has done more to enhance the beauty of this park than any other improvement, with the possible exception of the lake. Although not a large span, still it is as handsome a structure as is contained in any park in this country, and one which will always increase in beauty as it grows old. The entire cost of the bridge and approaches was just \$2.65 above the contract price, and this was paid for advertising.

The flow of water over the dam was considerable during the winter and the paving in the pool was not heavy enough to withstand its force. Great holes were made below the dam, endangering both the dam and the old roadway bridge, and it was necessary to build a masonry apron to the dam. This was done at a cost of \$544.40.

Half-barrels were made into vases, eighteen of which have been placed along the drives on posts, about 3½ feet above the ground, and filled with plants and vines. A new roadway along the south side of the lake was graded, graveled and



JULY FOURTH—GARFIELD PARK.

rolled. All seats were put together and distributed to the other parks. Trees were trimmed all over the park, brush was cut and burned, grass was cut on the open meadows and several tons of hay were stored away. One horse belonging to the park team was killed during a runaway and a new one was purchased at a cost of \$75.

Several hundred new trees were planted during the season, consisting of sugar maples, lindens, oriental planes, Lombardy poplars, pin oaks, weeping mulberries, weeping beeches, weeping cherries, weeping willows, weeping larch, tulip trees, magnolias and Japanese maples. Many new shrubs, plants and vines were planted consisting of hydrangeas, calycanthus, barberries, wiegelias, tritomas, yuccas, pæonies, eulalias, spireas, deutzias, andromedas, phlox, rosa wichuriana, lycium, Chinesees, ampelopsis veitchii, clematis and wisteria. These are hardy and with the planting of perennials in designs created a flower garden worthy of great admiration.

Several children's swings and two swings for general use were put up and were in great demand all summer. Sixty new seats were placed in the park, making a total of over two hundred, and these were not sufficient on some days.

One hundred and twenty-seven dead trees and many stumps were removed, which furnished forty-five cords of good wood for greenhouse fuel. Several hundred loads of manure for mulching were hauled and placed around the trees and plants.

A water-motor was attached to the driven well near the west entrance of the park and a boulder fountain for drinking purposes built. This supplies a large quantity of fine water and kept in constant operation until late in the fall, when some person lifted the man-hole covering and threw a large stone into it, damaging the motor to a considerable extent.

The street railway extended their lines to the west entrance of the park, making it, for the first time, easy of access. Every Sunday on which the weather was good, these cars were crowded with people, and on hot summer evenings many went to the park. Many picnics, both public and private, were held here during the season, and in some instances as many as ten thousand people were on the grounds at one time.

Among those who held picnics are the following:

June 21, Seventh Day Advent church.

July 4, German Lutheran St. Paulus church.

July 22, German St. John Evangelical Sunday-school.

July 22, Young Ladies of the Sacred Heart church.

July 23, Evangelical St. John's church.

August 6, German Reform Hope Sunday-school.

August 13, Protestant Deaconess Home and Hospital.

August 21, Trinity M. E. church.

August 26, Sixth Presbyterian church.

September 7, Ladies' German Aid Society.

During the fall, I took the park team and hauled 225 good trees, principally hard maples, which were obtained from farms near the city, fifty-nine of which were planted in this park and the balance in the other parks.

The grounds about the greenhouses have been kept in excellent condition, and in fact the whole appearance of the park during the past season has been beautiful. Many persons visiting this park for the first time in several years have been surprised and delighted at the change taking place.

MILITARY PARK.

This park has been kept in good condition and has been enjoyed by many people. The children's play-ground under the care of two matrons is one of the best features of this place, and it is worth a visit any nice afternoon to see the children at play. The park is supplied with swings, turning-poles, sliding boards, etc. Grass seed was sown on the lawns and twenty-two beds planted with blooming and foliage plants. The trees were trimmed and the dead wood removed.

Cement walks were laid at a cost of \$1,742.17 and the greater portion of the excavated material was used in filling up low walks, and in improving driveways. The edges of the walks were sodded and the canal bank facing the park was graded and sodded. All gravel walks and roadways were widened, edged and rolled. Walks across the lawns at the end of Ohio street were laid with old flag stone which had been taken from the site of the former fountain.

The lake was enlarged and a number of water lilies planted



WILLOW POOL—GARFIELD PARK.

therein, which produced a nice effect in connection with the flowers on the island.

The flag pole which stood at the Ohio street entrance was removed to a point opposite California street, about midway between New York street and the central fountain.

Three bronzed electric light poles were erected and the park lighted with electricity, doing away with the old gas lamps.

The water service was extended at a cost of \$573.45, and the entire park may now be sprinkled with the large hose and wagon. The hose used in this work is condemned two and one-half inch hose from the Fire Department. The cutting of grass requires the use of one horse and man during the entire summer on this work alone, besides the use of the hand mower around the trees and shrubs, etc., where the horse mower can not run.

Old materials, which could be used from time to time had accumulated behind one of the buildings and became so unsightly that it was necessary to build an additional storage shed. This was built in keeping with the other buildings at a cost of \$175. Besides the putting out of sight of materials, it also serves as a storage shed for the sprinkling cart and for seats during the winter.

The early blooming of crocus and tulips gave the lawns a beautiful appearance, but it being something new, some difficulty was experienced in keeping people from pulling them. There was no trouble with people who frequented the parks, but with casual visitors. A number of shrubs were planted, some trees transplanted and several thousand crocus and tulip bulbs.

UNIVERSITY SQUARE.

This square is one of the handsomest squares in the country. One year ago it was a muddy, ragged-looking place, but the addition of cement walks on the principal lines of travel, a fountain basin with a temporary water display, four bronzed electric light pillars, the removal of ugly shrubs and old trees, and the trimming up of the remaining trees have made a wonderful change in its appearance. The original design was followed in laying the cement walks, because it is a good design

for a city square, and because it has been so long planted that the walks were defined by the growth of large thrifty trees. The cement work within the square was done at a cost of \$2,700.

An oval with a curbstone edging was around the Colfax statue, and this with three others corresponding to it on the other approaches to the center were made with the cement improvements. These ovals were filled, sodded and planted with design beds and foliage plants, which were very beautiful and refreshing to the eye. The fountain basin was supplied with water connection and a six-inch sewer, which was laid from the fountain basin to a connection with the Meridian street sewer. A bronzed drinking fountain was erected, through which was forced water from a deep driven well by means of a water motor operated by city water.

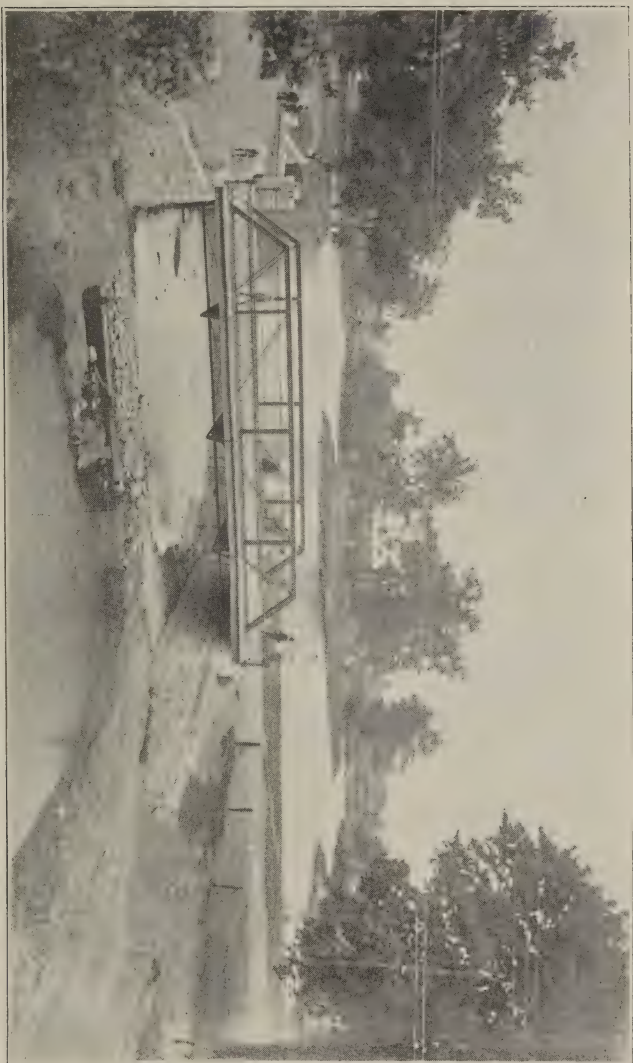
The lawns on Meridian and Pennsylvania streets between the outer walks and the curb were regraded and sodded, as was also the edges along the new walks and the bare spots. The gravel walks were regraded, edged and rolled and were kept in a nice condition. The trees were trimmed and dead wood removed at a cost of \$70.

In this park there is no place to store tools, seats and rubbish, and these things are now stored in the rear of the First Presbyterian church, where all the repairs are made and painting done.

During the summer an immense amount of sprinkling and grass cutting had to be done and the custodian could not keep up with all his work, but the square has been kept in excellent condition. Several new trees have been planted to take the place of those removed and dead. Among these are thirty-eight Norway maples, forty-seven hard maples, two hickories, one burr oak, one black walnut, three weeping mulberries and three weeping cherries. This square had several thousand crocuses and tulips in bloom and several thousand more have been planted.

ST. CLAIR SQUARE.

This square has been greatly improved during the past year. Cement walks were laid on the principal lines of travel at a cost of \$1,113.09.



PLEASANT LAKE—GARFIELD PARK.

The fountain basin was repaired and a six-inch drain laid from it to the sewer on St. Clair street.

A water-motor was connected with the driven well and the water forced through a bronzed fountain.

All trees were trimmed, several dead trees removed and three maples and one elm transplanted. A number of new trees were planted, comprising seven Norway maples, twenty-eight hard maples, one ash, one hickory, one burr oak, one red oak, five weeping mulberries, three weeping cheeries and eight Japanese maples.

Twelve additional seats were placed in this square making a total of twenty-one seats.

The flowers and foliage plants were a great addition to the park and together with the hardy shrubs presented a very pretty sight. The lawns were kept in excellent condition, the walk on the St. Clair street side was edged, graveled and rolled, and the outer lawn sodded. Several thousand crocus and tulips were in bloom in the spring, and during the fall many more were planted.

BROOKSIDE.

This triangle was one of the brightest spots in the city during the past summer, and the people in its vicinity have enjoyed it. It originally had brick walks along its outer edges, but these were taken up and the lawns graded out to the curb and sodded. The old brick removed amounted to about 12,000 and these were used for various work in Garfield and Military Parks and in University and St. Clair Squares. Eight seats were placed in the triangle and were considerably used during the summer evenings. Many crocus and tulips were planted during the fall for spring blooming.

The outer lines of the triangle had been planted with oriental plane trees, and I wish to comment upon the exceedingly thrifty habit which they have shown during the past year. A number of shrubs and three large flower beds were planted which looked very well during the season. The man who attends to St. Clair Square also attends this triangle, and it has been kept in good condition considering the amount of work he could put upon it.

FORT WAYNE PLACE.

This small triangle was graded, sodded, planted with one flower bed, three hard maple trees and a number of crocus and tulip bulbs. Water was introduced for sprinkling purposes and the lawn was kept in good condition. The area of the triangle is about one-third of an acre.

The following list shows what sort of plants were planted in the different parks during the season, all of which were grown in greenhouses in Garfield Park:

GARFIELD PARK.

Geraniums.....	7,387	Gladiolas.....	1,000
Altermantheras.....	15,869	Mrs. Parker geraniums.....	90
Coleus.....	4,401	Verbenas.....	280
Cannas.....	2,259	Phlox.....	220
Caladiums.....	369	Thunbergia.....	130
Ageratum.....	1,055	Mesemprenantheum.....	218
Salvias.....	850	Heliotrope.....	74
Vincas.....	290	Helianthus.....	155
Escholtzias.....	60	Hardy helianthus.....	50
Peristrophe.....	420	Cobea.....	14
Centaureas.....	558	Clematis.....	6
Celeroi geraniums.....	270	Chrysanthemums.....	950
Cereopsis.....	180	Asters.....	560
Pyrethrum.....	415	Miscellaneous plants and vines.....	850
Santilene.....	2,831		
Cuphea.....	80	Total.....	41,871

MILITARY PARK.

Coleus.....	1,548	Escholtzias.....	40
Geraniums.....	2,030	Peristrophe.....	40
Caladiums.....	34	Celeroi geraniums.....	60
Cannas.....	400	Centaureas.....	220
Altermantheras.....	3,115	Ampelopsis veitchii.....	7
Salvias.....	127	Cinnamon vine.....	5
Vincas.....	230	Clematis.....	2
Cereopsis.....	80	Ageratum.....	277
Cyperus.....	95		
		Total.....	8,310

UNIVERSITY SQUARE.

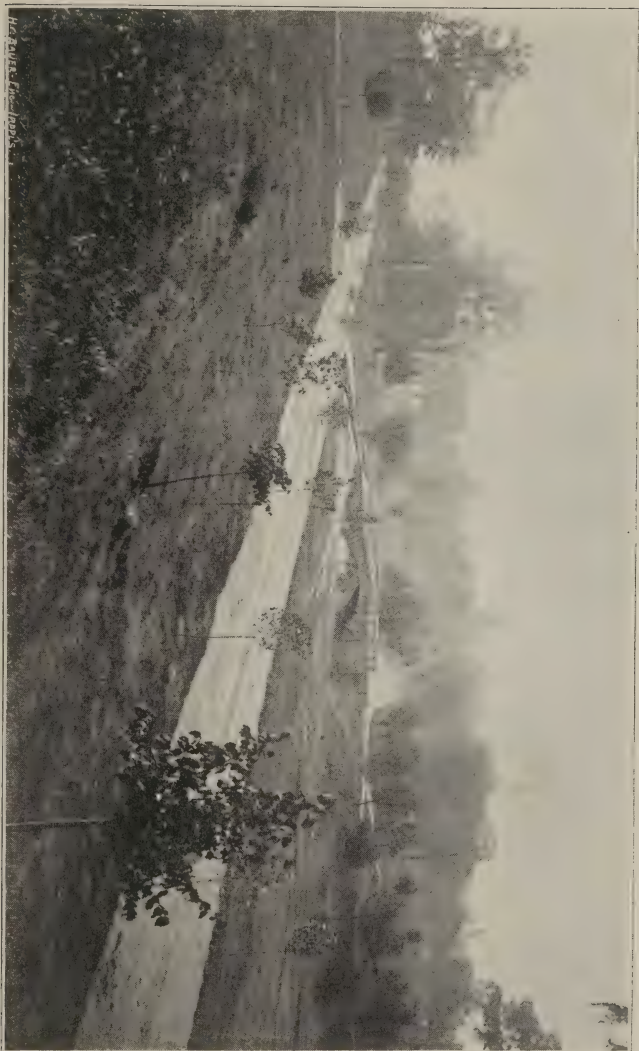
Altermantheras.....	3,915	Cannas.....	435
Coleus.....	690	Caladiums.....	115
Ageratum.....	90	Ampelopsis veitchii.....	4
Echevenas.....	660	Cinnamon vine.....	8
Santilene.....	725	Moon vine.....	4
Geraniums.....	600	Banana.....	1
Lobelias.....	130		
		Total.....	7,377

ST. CLAIR SQUARE.

Altermantheras.....	6,847	Salvia.....	65
Coleus.....	410	Anthericum.....	10
Geraniums.....	1,610	Helianthus.....	48
Ageratum.....	450	Celroi geraniums.....	160
Santilene.....	760	Pyrethrum.....	48
Cannas.....	305	Cinnamon vine.....	4
Caladiums.....	48		
Centaureas.....	130	Total.....	10,895

BROOKSIDE TRIANGLE.

Centaureas.....	170	Cannas.....	28
Geraniums.....	730	Helianthus.....	1,043
Ageratum.....	70		
Salvias.....	30	Total.....	2,071



VALLEY DRIVE—GARFIELD PARK.

FT. WAYNE PLACE.

Geraniums.....	125	Caladiums.....	6
Coleus.....	50	Total.....	181

PARK EXTENSION.

The following is the report made about the middle of the year, and which should be included in this report, the first half having been incorporated into the annual report of 1895:

Acting under a resolution passed October 21, 1895, directing me to make a survey of the territory lying between Washington street and Hammond's Park, along White river and Fall creek, to make such selections of land lying contiguous to these streams as I deemed suitable for park purposes, and to locate a main parkway, together with dams, lakes, etc., where, in my judgment, they could best be built, I made a partial report on the same December 27, 1895, and now have the honor to complete that report. My partial report dealt with the parkway and that portion of the territory between Washington street and the Michigan road, and this report embraces from there to Hammond's Park.

East of the Michigan road, I have to recommend that the land lying between Fall creek and Twentieth street, and from Michigan road to the alley lying west of Senate avenue, together with the land south of the creek and between the creek and Capitol avenue north of Fourteenth street, as indicated on the maps, be taken, excepting a small portion lying between Michigan road and Paris avenue and between Seventeenth and Mystic streets.

This piece of land has a fine grove of trees lying on the high land near Twentieth street, and from which the entire park may be seen. With the necessary dredging of the creek through this park, to get material for the construction of the parkway, a good water area will be formed, and a small dam at the Michigan road would give the water sufficient depth for a pretty lake. Through this park the plans show a cut-off for Fall creek, following about the lines of Sixteenth street. Should this cut-off be made, the change will be of great benefit to that part of the park system lying below Michigan road. It would allow the water to be cleansed of its grosser impurities

and prevent the gradual filling up of the lake by deposits of silt, etc. The head-gates could be kept closed during times when the water was turbulent, and the rise and fall of the lake surface reduced to a minimum. It would also obviate the necessity of building a large dam at Indiana avenue.

From Capitol avenue to Meridian street only sufficient land is taken to allow the passage of the parkway, and this at a reduced width. My reason for reducing the width here is that some of this property is built upon now, and its cost would be much increased by these improvements. Near Capitol avenue it is intended to take part of the property known as the "Cottage by the Sea." As Meridian street is the main thoroughfare to the north part of the city, I would suggest that the main offices, greenhouses and propagating gardens be located here, and with this end in view, together with other ideas, I have selected on the north bank all the land lying between the creek and Twentieth street, and from Talbott avenue west to the alley east of Illinois street.

MODERN BUILDINGS.

On this land should be erected the most modern and tasty buildings and the gardens should be as fine as it is possible to make them. The greenhouses should be on an equal plane with other cities and be veritable tropic gardens. They should be on such a scale that they would attract the attention of visitors and that citizens would take pride in exhibiting their beauties.

From this point to Twenty-second street a strip sufficiently wide to accommodate the parkway, and for the embellishment of the surroundings, has been taken in. Along this part the stream presents many very pretty points, which if developed by proper treatment of its banks, the construction of pools and the planting of trees, shrubbery, etc., would indeed be a picturesque section.

North of Twenty-second street is a body of land which will admit of the most handsome improvements. I would suggest its boundaries as follows: Beginning at the corner of Rohampton street and Twenty-second street; thence north along the east line of Rohampton street to the north line of Twenty-



GARDEN IN GARFIELD PARK.



GREEN HOUSES IN
GARFIELD PARK.



THE FOUNTAIN, MILITARY PARK.



third street; thence west along the north line of Twenty-third street to the east line of Broadway; thence north along the east line of Broadway to the right of way line of the Citizens' Street Railway; thence along this right of way line until it corners with the property of Frank Johnson; thence along or near the edge of the bottom land to the road east of the State Fair grounds; thence along the east line of said road to the right of way of the Lake Erie and Western Railroad; thence in a southerly direction along the west right of way line of said railroad to Western avenue; thence by the west line of Western avenue to Twenty-second street; thence by the north line of Twenty-second street to the point of beginning. This land is partially covered with a fine growth of timber, and the high and rolling character of the land on the east side of Fall creek gives a variety of appearance and rusticity so essential in suburban parks. I have selected these lands as being the most advantageous for the proposed system of parks.

In several places I have selected sites for dams in order to have good bodies of water for utility and pleasure as well as for beautification of the parks. The total area of water surface from the mouth of Fall creek to the State Fair grounds is about three hundred and thirteen acres as shown by the outline plan. This involves the widening and deepening of the stream for nearly the entire distance, but the excavated material is just what is needed for the construction of the parkway, drives and walks, which the construction plans would show.

A question, which, at first glance, would seem to be a menace to the system, is the fact that three sewers will have their overflow into Fall creek, but after a study of the conditions I do not believe this will have any bad effect other than to assist the growth of algæ. This would occur without the overflows where bodies of water are exposed to the light, and there can be but little difference in this respect, whether the overflow exists or not. These overflows will be in use only when the intercepting sewers are taxed beyond their capacities, and this would occur only during or after storm periods, and but few times each year, and as these overflows would be in operation after the interceptors and main sewers had been flushed and cleaned

but little objectionable matter would pass into Fall creek. The addition of fish to these lakes would materially assist in purifying the water.

CITY SQUARES.

In the matter of city squares, there have been a number selected; one on the corner of Seventh street and Capitol avenue; one on the corner of Marlowe and Archer streets; one on the corner of Dillon and Meek streets; one on the corner of Sanders and McKernan streets; one on the corner of Chadwick and Ray streets; one on the corner of Madison avenue and Coburn street; also three city parks, one lying along Pogue's Run known as Brookside; one lying south of the Belt railroad between the Bluff road and White river; one north of the junction of English and Michigan avenues, and an addition and entrance from Shelby street into Garfield Park.

BEHIND IN PARKS.

In comparing ourselves to other cities we find we are away behind in park areas, as the following will show:

Baltimore, Md., 1,200 acres, with 678 persons per acre.
 Boston, Mass., 2,094 acres, with 370 persons per acre.
 Buffalo, N. Y., 940 acres, with 272 persons per acre.
 Chicago, Ill., 2,425 acres, with 453 persons per acre.
 Council Bluffs, Iowa, 647 acres, with 33 persons per acre.
 Detroit, Mich., 885 acres, with 232 persons per acre.
 Louisville, Ky., 1,079 acres, with 150 persons per acre.
 Lynn, Mass., 1,600 acres, with 35 persons per acre.
 Minneapolis, Minn., 1,476 acres, with 112 persons per acre.
 New Bedford, Mass., 227 acres, with 180 persons per acre.
 New York City, 5,175 acres, with 293 persons per acre.
 Omaha, Neb., 543 acres, with 258 persons per acre.
 Philadelphia, Pa., 2,791 acres, with 378 persons per acre.
 Pittsburg, Pa., 707 acres, with 337 persons per acre.
 St. Louis, Mo., 2,380 acres, with 190 persons per acre.
 St. Paul, Minn., 600 acres, with 222 persons per acre.
 Washington, D. C., 1,750 acres, with 137 persons per acre.
Indianapolis, Ind., 116 acres, with 1,508 persons per acre.

Comment is unnecessary. This city is growing rapidly, having increased in population during the past year about 19,000, and when we consider that other cities are developing magnificent systems, their parks being connected with ample



GRANDMAN IN GARFIELD PARK



PLEASANT-LAKE GARFIELD PARK



GRANDMAN IN GARFIELD PARK



PLEASANT-LAKE GARFIELD PARK

parkways, from which all traffic is excluded, it seems that we should keep up with other cities in this particular. It is to be regretted that we do not have more city squares and triangles, such as the University Square and Brookside Triangle, and as the value of the land along Fall creek is steadily increasing in price the acquisition of this land for park purposes can not be put off much longer without greatly increasing the cost. To get a relative idea of the value of parks to a city I will refer to the eleventh annual report of the Park Commission of Boston, whose park system is more elaborate than any other American city. It contains a comprehensive exhibit of the increase of valuation resulting from what is known as the "Back Bay" improvement, and states that from 1877 to 1885 the increase of this valuation was \$11,935,449, which made an increase of revenue of \$152,773. The value of new buildings erected upon this territory during this period was nearly \$10,000,000. In Brookline, Mass., the pecuniary advantage is proven to be great. Beacon street was widened into a parkway at a cost of \$615,000, and in six years, on a strip just five hundred feet wide upon either side of this parkway throughout its entire length, gave an increase of \$4,330,000. This parkway paid for itself long before its advocates thought it would.

REAL ESTATE VALUES.

There is no longer any question as to the profitable investment in parks, and the increase to a wonderful degree of the value of real estate, not only that immediately adjacent, but for long distances around. New York is an example. In 1856 the assessed valuation of the three wards adjoining Central Park was \$20,429,565; in 1873 it was \$236,081,515, a gain in seventeen years of \$215,651,950. The natural increase of three other wards in the city, taken from all the wards, except the ones adjoining the park, showed only \$53,000,000, making the earning capacity of the park \$183,081,515. In Brooklyn in 1864 Prospect Park—515 acres—was acquired, and the increase in valuation in three years was 38 per cent. This is the history in all cities. I have visited all the park systems of this country, from the "Back Bay" in Boston to the

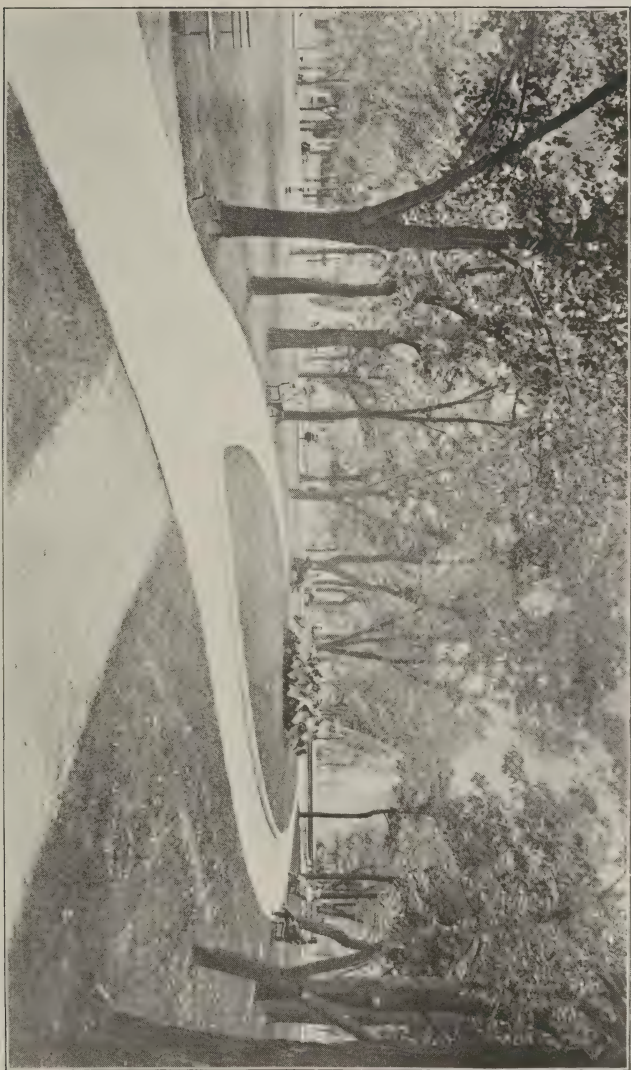
“Golden Gate” Park in San Francisco, and have many times driven over the famous “Wissahickon” Drive near Philadelphia, but I believe that Fall creek and vicinity possesses enough variety to make this one of the finest drives, as well as one of the finest park systems, of the country. The work of getting all the surveys has been tedious, much of it being done during the winter, when the weather was very cold and disagreeable. Up to the present time nearly one thousand miles have been run in making the topographical surveys of the lands selected for parks. In conclusion I wish to call attention to the very unsightly bridges over Fall creek. From my point of view only masonry arches of artistic design should be built over streams within or near a growing city. Masonry is there for ages, while iron or steel bridges require repairs, paint, etc., constantly, and in a few years must be replaced by another structure. It is true that the first cost is somewhat greater in the masonry arch, but in a few years the steel bridges will have exceeded the masonry in total expense.

APPRAISEMENT OF PARK LANDS AND THE ASSESSMENT OF BENEFITS.

Three appraisers were appointed by the Circuit Court, namely, Joseph F. Flack, Daniel Burton and Chas. E. Coffin, to appraise damages on the land included in the lines surveyed for park purposes, and to assess benefits against the property adjacent to the parks. This has caused the engineering division of the park department a great amount of extra duties, and in connection with my other duties often requires twelve to fifteen hours a day. The work of calculating the benefit assessments is more intricate and onerous than any similar work heretofore attempted in this city, on account of the constantly varying rates set by the appraisers.

THE WATER QUESTION.

A question which will in a short time be considered very seriously by the citizens of Indianapolis will be that of the water supply. While means and methods may be found by which this city may own its own water plant, that is only the beginning of the expense. If this city could see ahead and know the cost which will be necessary to obtain and perpetuate



UNIVERSITY SQUARE.

the water supply, the revolt of citizens against the purchase of the water-works plant would be overwhelming. These are things which must be considered and they are more serious than most people imagine. A part of our water supply would be provided for by the plan of park improvement if carried out, and this at no further cost than that which is necessarily made on the parks, and I desire to present a few facts connected therewith, some of which are taken from a report made in July, 1896, on this subject.

"The gauging taken by the water company in the driest season shows 4,000,000 gallons flow in Fall creek in twenty-four hours, but I have every reason to believe from gaugings taken myself at different intervals in the low water periods, that the construction of a dam above Indiana avenue bridge would produce not less than five and a half million gallons flow in the driest time of the year. A gauging roughly taken on July 20 shows a flow of twelve and a half million gallons in twenty-four hours, not including any estimate of sub-surface flow. This flow is considerable, but with the cutting of the stream down to solid foundation much of this flow will be forced to the surface. On some work on which I have been engaged, I have seen good water supplies produced by cutting the beds of streams, which were perfectly dry before the dams were built. Of course, some of the five and a half million gallons would be lost by evaporation, but if these lakes are a good depth, the evaporation will not be as great as if the water be shallow. Percolation is another way of loss, but a great portion of this would find its way to lower reservoirs, or in case of the Indiana avenue dam, it would find its way to the water company's reservoir.

The number of lakes which we have in view would act as good storage basins, to be drawn on in case of need. The Fall creek watershed comprises a little more than three hundred square miles, which, with the average annual rain-fall, would supply a storage basin of 7,500 acres, ten feet deep, while on our plans we show storage lakes or basins holding about five hundred millions of gallons, with only 313 acres of water area. Should the Water Company in any one day or more days desire to take over four million gallons of water from the Indi-

ana avenue lake, it could do so with safety, as the gates of the upper reservoir could be opened and the deficiency supplied. In any event, at a depth of six feet for the lower lake, the withdrawal of four million gallons would only lower the water one and one-fourth inches, if there were no feeder, but being constantly supplied by the five and a half million gallons of water, that amount would have to be exceeded daily to produce any appreciable lowering of the lake surface. In addition to the reservoirs or lakes, planned for the park system, there is a location further up Fall creek, near Mt. Nebo, which is favorable for the impounding of a large body of water which could be drawn upon at any time to feed the lower lakes, should they occasionally be drawn upon for the entire city supply. The volume of water in these impounding reservoirs would be so great as to preclude stagnation and the Board of Park Commissioners have the power to prevent their pollution.

With many people it is thought that the deep well is the proper source from which to draw a supply of water for domestic use, but its disadvantages are great. The water from deep wells contains salts of lime and magnesia which causes the hardness of the water. Under certain methods of aeration, by air compresses or otherwise, some of this hardness is removed, but never to that extent which should be in water for domestic use. We are now obtaining some of our supply from deep wells, but at the same time I note in two of the wells in our squares a lowering of the water level, and, without testing, I believe this water to be several degrees harder than even Fall creek water, which itself is a degree harder than that of White river. The carbonates of the deep well water are not very hurtful to the person who drinks this water, but it is unfit for any other use. This water is often boiled to reduce hardness, but the sulphates, chlorides and nitrates of lime and magnesia can not be eliminated by boiling. These salts decompose soap to a great extent and each degree of hardness counteracts the efficiency of ten grains of soap, in addition to the destructiveness of fabrics washed therein. This water destroys wrought iron pipe, and its effect on tin, sheet iron, etc., used for culinary purposes is very bad. The Water Company has had the Fall creek reservoir system under consideration for



MILITARY PARK.

some time, and although having now many deep wells and a quantity of water, I do not believe that the supply will be great enough a few years hence. When Mr. Allen Hazen, an expert on water filtration, was here, we were in almost daily consultation on this subject, and his idea was to use White river and Fall creek water, but to filter both.

In the planning of the lakes for the park system it was my idea to supply large bodies of water (and to erect a standpipe) which could be used as a part of the city's supply, as well as for the beautification of the parks and for the pleasure of the people, and after observing the wonderful cleansing and purifying action of the sewage filter farm of Berlin and the filter beds for water supplies elsewhere, I think a part of this city's supply should come from Fall creek.

GENERAL.

The question of a sufficiency of a park area for a number of years ahead is now being considered by nearly every city in this country. In many instances it would seem to a casual observer that there were enough parks in certain cities, but the lack has been so plain to the residents of these cities that every-where park agitation is going on.

Last summer, when taking my vacation, the board ordered that I visit Cleveland and Detroit and examine their parks. This was a source of considerable information as well as pleasure. In Cleveland several of their parks were the gifts of private individuals. These grounds, especially the Gordon and Wade Parks, had been improved as private parks, and while in many ways not on as ample a scale as should be for public grounds, yet with the material at hand they had been made very handsome places. The later donation of lands, and the purchase of other lands, coupled with sufficient money necessary to proper construction, gives the city ample park lands. The floral decorations were not as elaborate as I had anticipated, but were tasty and handsome. In the city squares, and indeed in all the parks, the gravel walks are being done away with, and cement and flag-stone walks are being substituted for them. The trees in the parks are only fairly healthy, but throughout the city are dying, and on Euclid avenue, once

the handsomest avenue in the country, the dead and dying trees present a most woful aspect. As I passed through the country I made many inquiries as to the cause of the trees dying, and nearly every one ascribed the cause to the drought of the past three years and coal smoke.

In Detroit the most picturesque spot is Belle Isle Park. This constitutes about seven hundred acres, and is enjoyed by the people as much as any park I have ever seen. Commodious buildings of all characters have been built—club house, police station, shelter houses, bath houses and casino. These buildings are modern in design and in all their details. The floral decorations are both elaborate and handsome. Everything on the island appeared to be doing well except the centaureas, which showed the bad effect of wet weather. While the drives, lakes and gardens of this park are finished pieces of improvement, a large part of the island is left in a thoroughly wild state—a good portion of it swampy. The zoo is a great attraction here, but the one point of more than usual interest is the bear pit. Crowds are standing before this place all day long seeming to enjoy the sight. The boulevard passes through the residence and suburban portions of the city, and with the exception of the corners turned is in straight lines. It is entirely devoid of any natural beauty, and will in no way compare with our proposed parkway. We will have the advantage of stream and lake views with ample opportunities to create artistic natural beauties in the surroundings.

In December, 1896, with one of the appraisers, I was directed to proceed to Minneapolis and get such information as was obtainable on the plan of assessing benefits against property benefited by being close to and adjoining the parks. Under the Minneapolis plan the whole cost of park land is paid for by these benefits, assessed against contiguous property, while under our law only a small part of the cost will be assessed against adjoining property. Our plan is unquestionably the best and most satisfactory. One instance of the increase of the value of property adjoining park land is that of a gentleman who fought against the taking of a narrow strip of his land and shutting him off from the lake which his land bordered. It was tried in the courts, but the commission having taken pos-



FOUNTAIN—UNIVERSITY SQUARE.

session of the property his remaining land became so valuable that he deeded the condemned land to the city without cost.

It needs no argument to prove that parks add greatly to the city's beauty, and it has been proven elsewhere that when a city has a park system worthy of a name it attracts many people who desire to make it a place of residence. Parks promote a higher moral tone to all classes of people, place before them the ennobling works of nature, and are places where they may learn much, which carried to their homes makes them brighter. In New York city a movement is being made for certain days to be set apart on which teachers may take the school children to Central Park and teach them things from nature, which is impossible within the confines of a school. This will have its effect in many ways which will be a benefit to all those with whom they come in contact as they grow up. The rapidity with which this city is growing causes certain sections of it to become more densely populated, and statistics show that in towns which do not have parks the death rate is higher than where ample pleasure grounds exist.

I take this occasion to thank Bertermann Brothers, florists of this city, for two large palms, one a *Latania borbonica* and the other a *Shamrock excelsa*, which they have presented to this department, and which are now in our greenhouses.

In conclusion I desire to say that I hope the results obtained during the past year have been satisfactory, and that my conduct of the engineering and business affairs of this department has met your approval.

Respectfully submitted,

J. CLYDE POWER,
Engineer and Superintendent.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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